

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 MCT-01 NEA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7074

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06488

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA PLO PDIP
SUBJECT: PLO REPRESENTATION IN JAPAN

REF: STATE 91578

1. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) IS REPRESENTED IN JAPAN BY A ONE-MAN INFORMATION OFFICE, OFFICIALLY OPENED IN FEBRUARY 1977 AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS. JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS TAKEN VIEW THAT THIS PLO REPRESENTATIVE IS ACTING IN PRIVATE CAPACITY AND AS SUCH, IS NOT ENTITLED TO ANY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES OR IMMUNITIES. ALTHOUGH LOCAL ARAB EMBASSIES AND THREE-MAN ARAB LEAGUE INFORMATION OFFICE (STAFFED BY JORDANIAN, EGYPTIAN AND IRAQI DIPLOMATS) PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR PLO REPRESENTATIVE, EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER ACTIVE PLO CADRE OPERATING UNDER COVER OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

2. COMMENT: GOJ IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF JAPANESE DEPENDENCE ON MIDEAST OIL AND CONSEQUENTLY, HAS ASSUMED A PRO-ARAB DIPLOMATIC TILT. NEVERTHELESS, IT ACQUIESCED ONLY RELUCTANTLY IN ESTABLISHMENT OF TOKYO PLO OFFICE.

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GOJ'S HESITATION IN THIS MATTER STEMMED FROM BOTH REALIZATION THAT TOO ARDENT EMBRACE OF PLO MIGHT ALIENATE US POLICY-MAKERS AND PUBLIC OPINION, AND SOME CONCERN IN REGARD TO POSSIBLE PLO ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH DOMESTIC FAR-LEFT GROUPS. CONSEQUENTLY, DESPITE LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE'S OCCASIONAL ATTEMPTS TO PLAY MORE OFFICIAL OR QUASI-DIPLOMATIC ROLE, FOREIGN OFFICE HAS

BY AND LARGE ATTEMPTED TO KEEP PLO AT ARMS LENGTH.
IN THIS, THEY HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY PLO REPRESENTATIVE'S
GENERALLY LACKLUSTER AND INEPT PERFORMANCE. IN PAST,
HOWEVER, PLO DELEGATIONS HAVE OCCASIONALLY VISITED TOKYO
ON INVITATION OF JAPANESE POLITICAL OR BUSINESS GROUPS WITH
VESTED INTERESTS IN MIDEAST, AND, THROUGH BACKSTAGE
LOBBYING OF THEIR INFLUENTIAL JAPANESE SPONSORS AND LOCAL
ARAB EMBASSIES, HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH
SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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